

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being amended, added or cancelled.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-12 and 17-20 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,594,503 to Herzig et al. This rejection is traversed for the reasons given below.

With respect to the rejection of independent claims 1-4, page 4 of the Office Action asserts that “because the previously obtained telephone numbers have been stored [in the system of Herzig], they may be called (by conventional means) by a user in a sequence (sequentially).”

Applicant agrees in part with the Examiner’s interpretation of Herzig, as provided above. But, as will be explained below, Herzig does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-4.

In particular, there is nothing in Herzig that discloses or suggests the capability of making sequentially telephone calls without first requiring a user input from the end of one call to the start of the next call in sequence. This is implicitly acknowledged in the Office Action by its statement that Herzig uses conventional means for making phone calls in sequence.

Turning now to the claims, which are recited as means plus function claims, whereby such features are to be interpreted in view of the description of those features in the specification, Figure 3B of the drawings and page 10, lines 5-17 of the specification clearly describe a sequence of calls that are made with user input from the end of one call to the beginning of the next call in sequence. In Herzig, a user has to select a stored phone number

and then make the call to that stored phone number (the next phone number in sequence), whereby in the claimed invention the user only makes a selection as to whether or not to make a call to a next phone number displayed in a sequence of phone numbers to be called. See step S25 in Figure 3B of the drawings, in particular.

Accordingly, since Herzig does not disclose, teach or suggest the specific features of the “means for sequentially making calls”, as such feature is described in the drawings and in the specification, independent claims 1-4 are not anticipated by Herzig.

Also, with respect to independent claim 3, the Office Action asserts that column 2 of Herzig teaches the ability to recognize a known portion of a telephone number in a known format with a known number of digits, and thus it meets the features recited in that claim. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the invention according to claim 3, if a written number was “03 3431 1831”, to designate a telephone number in Tokyo (“03” corresponds to Tokyo), the “03” would be the preset numbers of a first preset number of digits and the numbers following it “3431 1831” would be the second preset number of digits. The ability to detect the preset numbers “03” from the list of numbers enables one to make a telephone call from any particular location, which may or may not require the use of dialing the “03” portion of the telephone call. Herzig does not disclose, teach or suggest such a capability of extracting pertinent information from a sequence of digits written on a page, to allow one to make a call from any particular location (e.g., calling a number in Tokyo from D.C., or calling a number in Tokyo from within Tokyo) using a different set of digits written on a sheet of paper.

Thus, independent claim 3 is not anticipated by Herzig for these additional reasons.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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